

# A NOTE ON MISLEADERS IN WORKERS EDUCATION

## Progressive Education Can Only Be Proletarian Class Education

By SAM DARCY

Leninist class education was not known in the United States until a few years ago when the Communist Party entered seriously on this field of work. The "workers education movement" always carried with it the demoralizing atmosphere of the A. F. of L. education bureaus, Brookwood Labor College, and a series of semi-back-to-nature institutions. For years these prated to the working class about the virtues of "neutral science," "education that is above classes," "pure knowledge," etc. Since the beginning of the rapid growth and extension of influence of the schools established by the Communist Party in about 1923, these bourgeois confusion-breeding institutions have been forced to expose their real nature. Now they become either frankly jingoistic enterprises or have taken for their program the whining philosophy of the middle class liberals.

### Neutral Science?

Some are even now pretending to serve an "impartial science"—others, (as one prominent official of Brookwood Labor College recently expressed it to the writer) frankly state that "the auspices under which even English is taught is very important. As English is taught in Brookwood there is no neutrality even as between the different groups in the labor movement."

Every Leninist must know that science today can only be a class science. Arithmetic is always held up as the absolute pure science, above class influence. But certainly every intelligent worker recognizes that the very construction of this subject has a bourgeois character—being so organized as to serve a capitalist class society. Multiplication and division is twisted into "legal rates of interest" and "rate of profit," etc., etc.

### Only Communism Can Free Science.

Only a classless society, that is a Communist society, can really free science and knowledge from the fetters of purpose to serve a ruling class and turn it into real science serving all society. The road to such a condition lies thru the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a Proletarian Dictatorship. Education which is progressive in the historic sense can only therefore be proletarian class education. This is the program of the Workers School movement—the only education movement in the United States which has such a program.

### The New York Workers School

The central school of the Communist Party, located in New York

City, which leads this movement has had tremendous growth since its founding. From five or six classes in the 1924-5 term having about 60 registered students, the School leaped to over 100 classes having a total registration of 2,080, in the 1929-30 term. Equally great growth is shown in the improvement of the faculty both as regards to member and Leninist stature. The greatest growth of all however, is the clarification of the program of the School and the contents of the courses. In this respect the sharpest break took place between the terms 1928-9 and 1929-30

The entire published program for the 1928-9 term was a watered program. The aim of the school is stated thus:

"Its (Workers School) curriculum is based on the assumption that Marx, Engels, and Lenin, in their works and deeds have given the proletariat a science of understanding, organizing and action which directs it along its march towards power and emancipation."

Such a statement of purpose despite the mention of Lenin's name can of course be entirely accepted by such non-communist bodies as the "proletarian" party.

### Old Errors

Still greater confusion reigned in the various courses offered. If one takes the American History courses for example then one finds the following different courses offered:

1. History of the U. S.
2. Economic and Political History of the U. S.
3. History of the American working Class.
4. Historic Struggles of American Labor
5. Marx and Engels on America.

If one understands that there can be only one Marxian approach to history then the falsity of the division between most of these courses becomes obvious. Possibly the type of errors made in the construction of other parts of the curriculum throw light on the above madness (or was it method?). A course was offered by the then director of the School on Problems of American Marxism! And in order to emphasize this "exceptionalist" approach another course was offered on "Some Aspects of the American Mind." This has nothing to do with Leninism. It can only be characterized as superficial petty-bourgeois drivel!

### The Better Workers School

During the 1929-30 term, following on the change in the entire line of the Communist Party, what can be termed as a complete revolution took place. The curriculum and course contents were overhauled and changed with the result that the School emerged as a better, more effective weapon in the hands of the revolutionary movement of the United States.

### Register for Spring Term Now

The Spring term of the Workers School is to open on February 3rd. The splendid service given by the school in supplying better functionaries for the Communist Party, militant trade unions, and other labor organizations is gradually winning for it its proper place in the labor movement. For the Fall term hundreds of students were elected in the shops, especially the shoe shops, to attend the School; the expenses being covered by collections among the workers. For the Spring term this must be increased. Over 90 per cent of the students for the Fall Term came from the shops. The School is now taking registration for the Spring Term—No worker should miss the opportunity to attend.

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